

Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-28. (cancelled).

29. (currently amended) ~~In a~~ A method of treating an inflammatory disease condition in a mammal, ~~responsive to treatment by ovine interferon tau (IFN τ), an improvement comprising:~~

orally administering ~~a therapeutically effective amount of bovine interferon tau (IFN τ) to said mammal in an amount that does not cause a significant depression in blood lymphocytes through oral ingestion.~~

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein IFN τ is orally-administered at a dosage of greater than about 1×10^5 units per day.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein IFN τ is orally-administered at a dosage of greater than about 1×10^6 units per day.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein ~~said the bovine~~ IFN τ has an amino acid sequence homology of at least about ~~80%~~ 70% with an ovine IFN τ (OvIFN τ) amino acid sequence.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said ~~bovine~~ IFN τ has a sequence homology of at least about 80% with an ovine IFN τ sequence represented as SEQ ID NO:2.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said mammal is a human.

35. (cancelled).

36. (cancelled).